mitigate the genuine grievance of the State in this regard and by when the price structure of LPG will be lowered in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAION SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The ex-storage point price of LPG at all the refineries is fixed at uniform level. The transportation element from refinery to bottling plants and to the final markets alongwith various local levies like State Sales-Tax, Octroi imposed by various States/Local Authorities affect the final selling price of LPG in different states.

(c) and (d) The price of LPG packed (domestic) in the State of Gujarat is more due to the higher Sales-Tax levied by the State Government.

Assistance to Panchayats for afforestation Schemes

2372. SHRI S. MUTHUMANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to involve the village communities through Panchayats in the massive projects to green the non-forest lands in the countty;

(b) whether the Government are also considering to grant financial and other assistance to Panchayats at par with NGOs, under various National Afforestation schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Gram Panchayats will be fully involved in the implementation of government afforestation programmes. They will assist in the formation of user groups to enhance people's participation in the operation and maintenance of the assets created. The Gram panchyats will also monitor and review programmes to ensure that the norms have been followed in their implementation.

Opening of Post Offices at Kota Giwai

2373. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to answer to Unstarred Question 6142 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th May, 1995 and state:

(a) whether proposal for opening an extra departmental branch Post Office at Kota Giwai in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh has been decided; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Opening an Extra Departmental Branch Post Office at Kota Giwai in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh has been found justified as per departmental norms, but actual opening of Post Office will depend on availability of resources and sanction of staff.

Reducing Pollution in river Gomati

2374. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.K. has provided any grant to redice pollution in River Gomti as part of the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work on the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The Overseas Development Administration, U.K. is providing grant assistance for pollution abatement works